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Kalamazoo Youth Invited to Apply for MyCITY Summer Employment Program

Kalamazoo, Mich., March 6, 2019– Youth within the City of Kalamazoo are invited to apply for MyCITY (Career Introduction and Training for Youth) summer youth employment program, which offers youth age 14-21 summer employment opportunities, career introduction, and skills training.

The program is divided into three pathways for different age groups. Career 101 offers 14 and 15-year-olds job readiness training in addition to summer work to prepare them for future success. For 16-21-year-olds, Career 2.0 explores career options and provides more on-the-job training. CareerNOW, the pathway for 18-21-year-olds, offers free training to help participants become certified professionals in fields such as welding, automotive repair, early childhood education, culinary arts, and certified nursing aid. All pathways provide summer work and paid wages.

"MyCITY is all about developing young people's career pathways," said Eric Stewart, Director of Youth Opportunities Unlimited, which administers the program. "For some it's an introduction to the world of work. For others it's a genuine entry point to their lifelong career. Youth Opportunities Unlimited is incredibly proud of MyCITY and extremely grateful to the City of Kalamazoo and the Foundation for Excellence for investing so profoundly in young people's future."

Applications are accepted online at <https://mycityyou.org/> through April 9. CareerNOW pathway applications will be accepted on a rolling basis until all training opportunities have been filled. Applicants must live within the City of Kalamazoo. Computers are available at YOU located at 422 E South Street Mondays and Wednesdays from 3 – 5 p.m. through April 3. Computers are also available in the Human Resources Office at City Hall, located at 241 W South Street.

Since 2017, the MyCITY Summer Youth Employment Program has been funded by the Foundation for Excellence, which resulted in nearly tripling the size of the program. Since 2015, more than \$800,000 in wages have been paid to the more than 1,000 youth who have participated.

“We are thrilled by the continued success of MyCITY and proud to offer the support of the Foundation for Excellence,” said Kalamazoo Mayor and Foundation for Excellence President Bobby J. Hopewell. “Investing in our youth is absolutely the most important investment that we can make. MyCITY teaches youth job skills and the value of hard work, provides an opportunity to earn money over the summer, and most importantly, shows our young people what is possible for their future.”

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